

I

BOROUGH OF BURY ST. EDMUNDS



A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

together with the

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

1972

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE BURY ST. EDMUNDS BOROUGH COUNCIL

In accordance with the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, I have the honour to present for your information the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1972.

I referred in the foreword to the report for 1971 to the untimely death on 23rd April, 1972 of Dr. P. Coggin Brown, who had been Medical Officer of Health for twenty-one years. In view of the imminence of Local Government and Health Service re-organisation it was agreed by the Councils concerned that I should act as your Medical Officer of Health for the remainder of the life of the present authorities, and it therefore falls to me to present this report.

The estimated population of the Borough has increased by 530 people, the natural increase, that is excess of births over deaths, being 74. The birth rate fell yet again in common with that for England and Wales as a whole, a trend that has been evident on the national scale since 1966. Deaths remained below the national rate, but included 12 deaths from lung cancer and 54 from coronary heart disease. Cigarette smoking is a very significant factor in lung cancer and implicated in coronary heart disease and many of these deaths could have been prevented had the subjects not ignored the clear evidence of the dangers of cigarette smoking which is now available.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was very low, primarily due to a marked drop in notifications of measles. It would be tempting but misleading to ascribe this fall to immunization. It is more likely that we are seeing a return to the biennial periodicity of this disease which was a marked feature before the natural pattern was disturbed by immunization. Measles is still a disease with an appreciable incidence of serious complications and it is to be hoped that more parents will take advantage of the protection that is available to their children by immunization.

The environmental work of the Public Health Department is dealt with in the report of Mr. J.H. Easdown, Chief Public Health Inspector, which follows. I am greatly indebted to Mr. Easdown for his help in maintaining the work of the Department during this difficult transitional period and in particular for his great help in compiling this report.

D.G.H. Patey.

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

P. Coggin Brown, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Deceased 23 April, 1972)

D.G.H. Patey, M.R., B.M., B.Ch., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.
(Acting Medical Officer of Health)

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J.H. Easdown, M.A.P.H.I.

This Officer is also appointed Inspector under the
Shops Act, 1950
Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936
The Explosives Acts, 1875 and 1923
Diseases of Animals Act, 1950
and as Improvement Officer under the Housing Act, 1969

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

B.G.R. Coley, M.A.P.H.I.

Senior Public Health Inspector

J. Ellis, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

J.A. Croydon	-	Resigned 20th August, 1972
P.W.L. Sampson	-	Appointed 1 July, 1972
G.C. Bouttell	-	Commenced duties 2 October, 1972

Authorised Meat Inspectors

S. Kenworthy, M.A.M.I.

J. Bostock, M.A.M.I.

J. Burton, M.A.M.I.

Assistant to Public Health Inspector

Miss A.D. Wright

Student Public Health Inspector

P.W.L. Sampson	-	Attained Public Health Inspector's Diploma, June 1972
C.T. Evans	-	Commenced 23rd October, 1972

Rodent Operator

L.C. Cardy

Clerk/Secretary

Mrs. E. Matthews

Shorthand Typist

Mrs. H. Crown	-	Resigned 17th March, 1972
Miss J. Gibson	-	Commenced as from 6th March, 1972

VITAL STATISTICS

ALL FIGURES IN BRACKETS which follow in the sequence of this report relate to the corresponding figures for 1971.

POPULATION:-

(1) Registrar General's Estimate for 1972	26,420	(25,890)
(2) Census April, 1971	25,629	
Rateable Value	£1,457,183	(£1,407,066)
Sum represented by a Penny Rate(Est.)	£13,925	(£13,265)
Area	3,623 acres.	

BIRTHS:- There was a decline in the birth rate and the figure, when corrected for the age and sex distribution of the population, was slightly below that for England and Wales as a whole.

LIVE BIRTHS:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Legitimate	192 (215)	169 (186)	361 (401)
Illegitimate	10 (11)	9 (13)	19 (24)
Percentage of illegitimate live births of total			
live births:		5.0	(5.6)
Crude birth rate, per 1,000 of population:		14.4	(16.4)
Comparability factor for births:		0.95	(0.98)
Birth rate per 1,000 corrected for comparability		13.7	(16.1)
Birth rate per 1,000 of population England			
and Wales		14.8	(16.0)

STILLBIRTHS:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Legitimate	2 (2)	3 (1)	5 (3)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 of total			
(live and still) births:		13.0	(7.0)
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 of total			
(live and still) births England and Wales		12.0	(12.0)

DEATHS: The number of deaths remained about the same and the rate when corrected remained below that for England and Wales.

Deaths:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	147 (156)	159 (151)	306 (307)
Crude death rate per 1,000 of population		11.6	(11.9)
Comparability factor for deaths		0.83	(0.78)
Death rate per 1,000 of population			
corrected for comparability		9.6	(9.3)
Death rate per 1,000 of population			
England and Wales		12.1	(11.6)
Ratio of Local Corrected Death Rate			
to the National Rate:		0.80	(0.8)

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE
DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DISEASE	Under 1	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 and over	Age Unknown	TOTALS
Measles	1	1	1	2	2	4	-	-	-	1	12
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	5
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	4

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DISEASE	JAN.	FEB.	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTALS
Measles	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	1	12
Scarlet Fever	1	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	5
Meningitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	3
Infective Jaundice	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4

Causes of Death During the Year

1972

in Bury St. Edmunds

	Registrar General's Figures	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Meningococcal Infection	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	8	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	10	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	15
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	2	—
Other Malignant Neoplasms	10	8
Diabetes Mellitus	2	4
Leukemia	1	—
Anaemias	—	1
Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	—	1
Mental Disorder	1	—
Other Diseases of Nervous System	3	1
Hypertensive Disease	—	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	31	20
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	3	2
Other forms of Heart Disease	7	12
Cerebrovascular Disease	16	32
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	3
Influenza	1	—
Pneumonia	9	18
Bronchitis and Emphysema	8	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	2
Peptic Ulcer	1	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	—
Appendicitis	1	—
Other Diseases of Digestive System	—	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	—
Other Diseases Genito-Urinary System	2	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	2	2
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	1
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	—
Symptoms and Ill-defined conditions	1	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	—	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	1
All Other Accidents	3	6
	<u>147</u>	<u>159</u>

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

During 1972 the following inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors and other members of the Department. Throughout the report the figures which appear in brackets are those for 1971.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Complaints and nuisances	924	683
Dustbins	14	5
In connection with verminous persons	-	5
Disinfectory houses	17	9
Drainage work	410	168
Ponds, pools and ditches	97	120
Stables and piggeries	4	10
Disinfections and disinfestations	59	4
Hairdressers and barbers	81	16
Noise abatement	85	75
Infectious disease enquiries	42	5
Rodent control	2236	2172
Refuse tips	6	5
Means of escape in case of fire (Section 60)	118	32
River pollution	34	83
Housing Act 1969 - Improvements and qualification certificates	928	479
Housing (general)	769	564
Food premises, complaints and date coding	1097	644
X-rays of food handlers	-	3
Shops Act	104	68
Unsound food	375	368
Stalls and markets	271	140
Ice cream, cream and water sampling	133	91
Slaughterhouses	2080	2360
Poultry inspection	771	814
Ice cream vendors	58	29
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	740	609
Factories	204	108
Caravans	142	82
Clean Air Act	79	74
Petroleum	423	473
Diseases of Animals Act	136	62
Pets Act	14	2
Explosives Act	55	35
Schools	3	-
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	4	-
Riding Establishments Act	6	9
Scrap metal dealers	7	-
Exhumations	-	-
Lectures	5	10
Interviews with owners, etc	1023	1038
Miscellaneous	420	290
	<u>13974</u>	<u>11744</u>

GENERAL

The Establishment of the Department was enlarged by one Public Health Inspector when Mr. Sampson was appointed on attaining the Public Health Inspector's Diploma. Mr. Croydon left for pastures new in August and was replaced by Mr. Bouttell in October. Mr. C.T. Evans was appointed to the vacant position of Student Public Health Inspector.

As will be seen from the summary of inspections the total number for the year under review fell short of the total for 1971 by some 2,200 visits. This disappointing fact was largely brought about by the drop in the number of visits to food premises and in regard to housing improvements and qualification certificates. Another large deficit was in the investigation of complaints and nuisances, and in all a smaller number of inspections was achieved in twenty six other fields of the work of the Department. This apparent falling off in the work of the Department was caused by the increased throughput of the slaughterhouses requiring the attendance on meat inspection of an additional man. The departure of Mr. Croydon and the time lapse before Mr. Bouttell arrived to replace him aggravated the situation and there were times in the summer months when not a single district Inspector was available for work of a general nature. To avoid a repetition in 1973 sanction from the Council was obtained to appoint a further Public Health Inspector and the position was being advertised by the end of the year.

Whilst clearance and/or repair of many sewers and drains was achieved during the year by informal action and advice it was considered necessary to serve 6 statutory notices requiring work to be carried out.

Nine notices were served to control the demolition of houses, site conditions following demolition, and the stability and weatherproofing of exposed gable walls of adjoining properties.

As in previous years lectures were given by Public Health Inspectors to pupils at schools in the Borough where this service was requested.

WATER

There are now 11 public and private swimming pools in the Borough. Six bacteriological samples were taken from these pools and were found to be satisfactory.

Forty one bacteriological samples were taken from private wells and the mains water supply and only one sample was found to be unsatisfactory due to the presence of Coliforms. Suitable advice was given and further samples from this well were found to be satisfactory. Advice is given as a matter of routine to the owners of private water supplies concerning the cleanliness of well equipment and the surrounding surfaces, and also where necessary regarding the chlorination of the water.

Five bacteriological samples were taken from points within the new West Suffolk Hospital and this was to ensure that all new pipe lines were in a clean condition before use. All samples were found to be satisfactory.

The inspection of the rivers and ditches within the Borough continued and numerous stretches were found to be polluted to varying degrees. On most occasions the source of the pollution was found and removed and where trade wastes were responsible appropriate advice and/or warnings were given. The detection of pollutants is a duty which can take up a great deal of time as can also the tracing of the sources. One of the major pollutants is oil which is discharged into the rivers via the surface water sewers which collect water from trade premises. This oil emanates from lorry washes and surface contamination around diesel pumps. In several cases three chamber oil interceptors were installed on the firms' premises although these chambers can themselves originate pollution from oil where they are not properly maintained.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The general standard of food hygiene in the town remained at a high level and few complaints were received about unhygienic practices observed by the general public. The requirements in the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970 relating to the provision of amenities, e.g. wash hand basins served by adequate hot and cold water supplies, are nowadays rarely contravened and the Inspectors' visits to food premises are of more benefit in the education of food handlers in matters of food hygiene. It is in this field that a Public Health Inspector will achieve the maximum benefit from his visits because whilst it is within the Inspector's power to require the provision of facilities it is of course impossible for him to ensure their use, except in the short time that he is inside the premises. At all other times it is left to the food handler and his food hygiene training. As a consequence it has often rightly been said that the public (particularly the housewife) is the best public health inspector. It is the right of the individual customer when he or she observes unhygienic practices in food premises to tell the food handler that they no longer wish to be served in that shop and will take their custom elsewhere until such time as the unhygienic practices cease. The tolerance of the public to improperly washed cutlery, dirty fingernails, chipped crockery, etc., is beyond my comprehension.

Thirty one visits were made for the main purpose of checking the date coding of perishable foods exposed for sale in shops in the town. The freshness of the foods examined proved to be a vast improvement on that in 1971.

FOOD COMPLAINTS

In all 29 (41) complaints relating to food were received and investigated by the Department. Nine of these complaints concerned various foreign bodies found in the food and six that the food purchased was mouldy. Foreign bodies ranged from a fly in an imported can of tuna fish to a piece of lead in a faggot.

Perhaps two of the most serious complaints concerned maggot infestation of food. In one case the food was alleged to be minced meat and in the other case it was cheese. Legal proceedings for this latter case were pending at the close of the year.

ICE CREAM

During the year 32 (42) samples of ice cream were obtained. Thirteen of these came from mobile vendors and the remaining 19 from shop and catering premises. The sampling grades were as follows:-

Grade 1	26	(30)
Grade 2	3	(4)
Grade 3	3	(7)
Grade 4	-	(1)

Following last years efforts to improve the quality of ice cream from mobile vendors by intensive sampling and subsequent advice it is gratifying to note that in the year under review only two of the samples not of Grade 1 standard were from mobile vendors. In the coming year sampling will continue to be centred on catering premises and mobile vendors.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

As will be seen from the following table a total of 141,121 animals were slaughtered in the Borough for human consumption. This figure represents a mammoth 54% increase on last year. After the previous years drop in the cattle kill, this year saw an increase of about 1,400 cattle, 13,500 sheep and 35,000 pigs. The works of enlargement and alteration

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole

or Part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Goats
Number Killed	14656	424	74	34466	91501	---
Number Inspected	14656	424	74	34466	91501	---
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI						
Whole Carcases Condemned	11	8	11	33	385	---
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4288	219	19	3433	22973	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerici	29.3	53.5	40.5	10.1	25.5	
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole carcases condemned	---	---	---	---	1	---
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	---	---	---	851	---
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.034	---	---	---	0.93	---
CYSTICERCI						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	---	---	---	---	---
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	5	---	---	---	---	---
Generalised and totally condemned	1	---	---	---	---	---

ANALYSIS OF CONDEMNED

	CATTLE						SHEEP		
	Whole Carcases	Heads and Tongues	Lungs	Livers and Part Livers	Skirts, Udders & Mesenteries	Hearts, Kidneys and Spleens	Whole Carcases	Heads	Lungs
Tuberculosis		3			2				
Pneumonia, Pericarditis, Pleurisy, Melanosis, Emphysema, Xanthosis	3		1475	7		96	2		373
Pyæmia, Pyrexia, Peritonitis Gangrene, Septicaemia	6						4		
Nephritis, Necrosis, Pyelonephritis, Hydronephrosis, Odour, Telangiectasis	1			102	3	31			
Liver Fluke, Cirrhosis and other Parasitic Conditions, Hepatitis				1392					898
Emaciation, Oedema and Enteritis	7				4		19		
Actinomycosis and Actinobacillosis		88	3						
Brucellosis					6				
Tumours, Abscesses, Cystic Conditions, Adhesions	1	34	34	1512	128	142	1		60
Septic Metritis & Mastitis					22				
Cysticercus bovis	1	5							
Icterus, Uraemia and Anaemia	1								
Swine Erysipelas, Swine Fever									
Moribund, Bruising, Ill Bled							7		
Contamination		11	18	4		1			795
Septic Arthritis									
Joint Ill, Leukaemia, Taint Johnes Disease, Immaturity									
Congestion			6						41
TOTALS	20	141	1536	3017	165	270	33	—	216

The following carcase meat was also condemned:

BEEF

Bruising, Atrophy, Decomposition or Oedema	2003 lb.
Abscesses, Rash, Blood splashing	141 lb.
Arthritis and Fibrosis	53 lb.
Tuberculosis	

The total weight of all meat condemned

EAT AND OFFAL

PIGS									CALVES						
Hearts and Kidneys	Whole Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Livers	Hearts	Mesentery fats guts & flairs	Kidneys		Whole Carcases	Heads	Hearts	Livers	Lungs	Kidneys	Mesenteries
	1	823				46									
	125		12965		5401								17		
	72					1712			7						
	5						11		1			1		1	
88				5229											
	29					482			2						
70	106	22	1	2671		4	9					2			
	16														
	3														
	23														
66	102														
	5														
	1								1						
			7423												
24	102	386	845	20389	7900	5401	2244	20	11	-	-	3	17	1	-

MUTTON

247 lb.
272 lb.
141 lb.

PORK

2161 lb.
16120 lb.
6049 lb.

VEAL

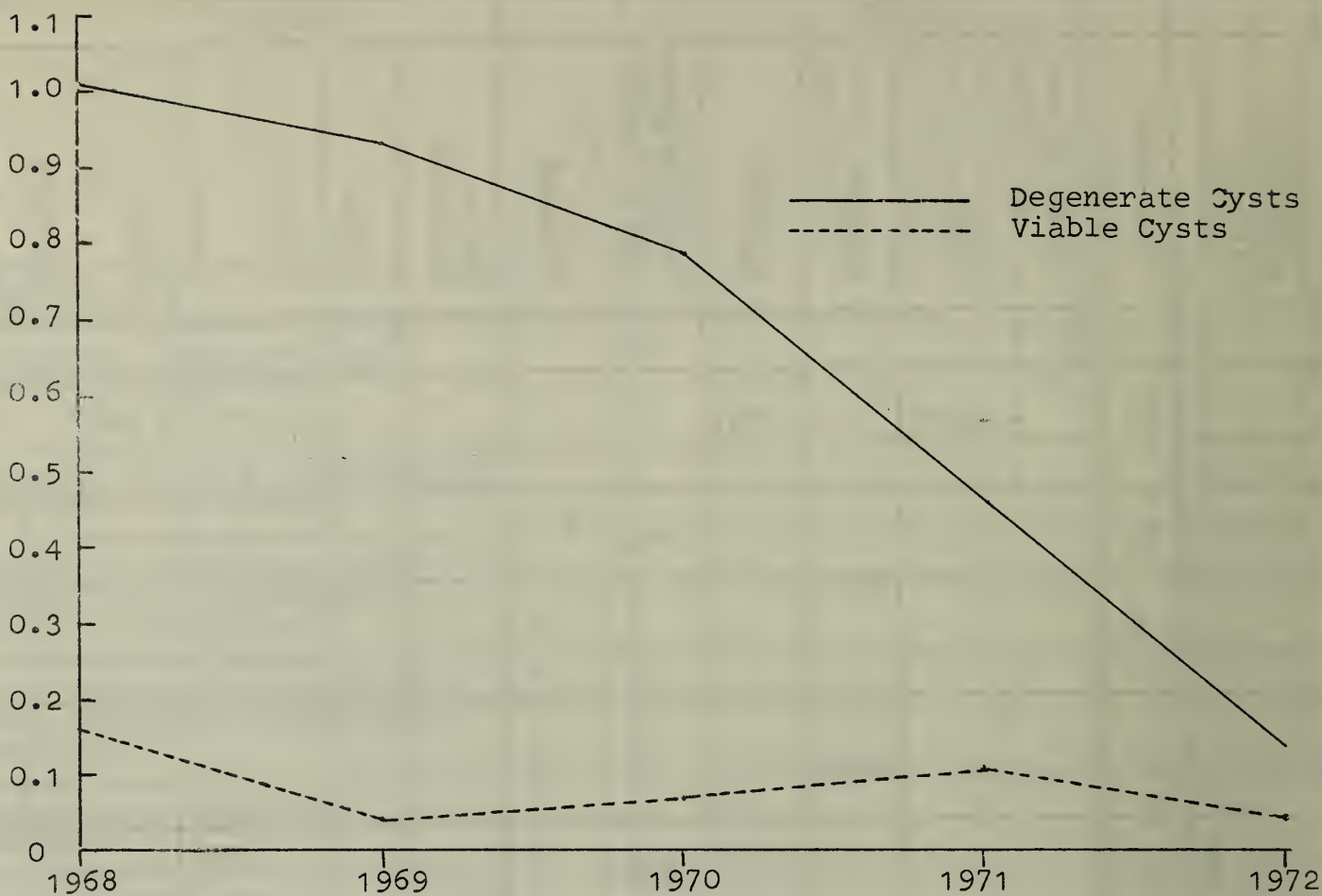
14 lb.
6 lb.
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GOATS

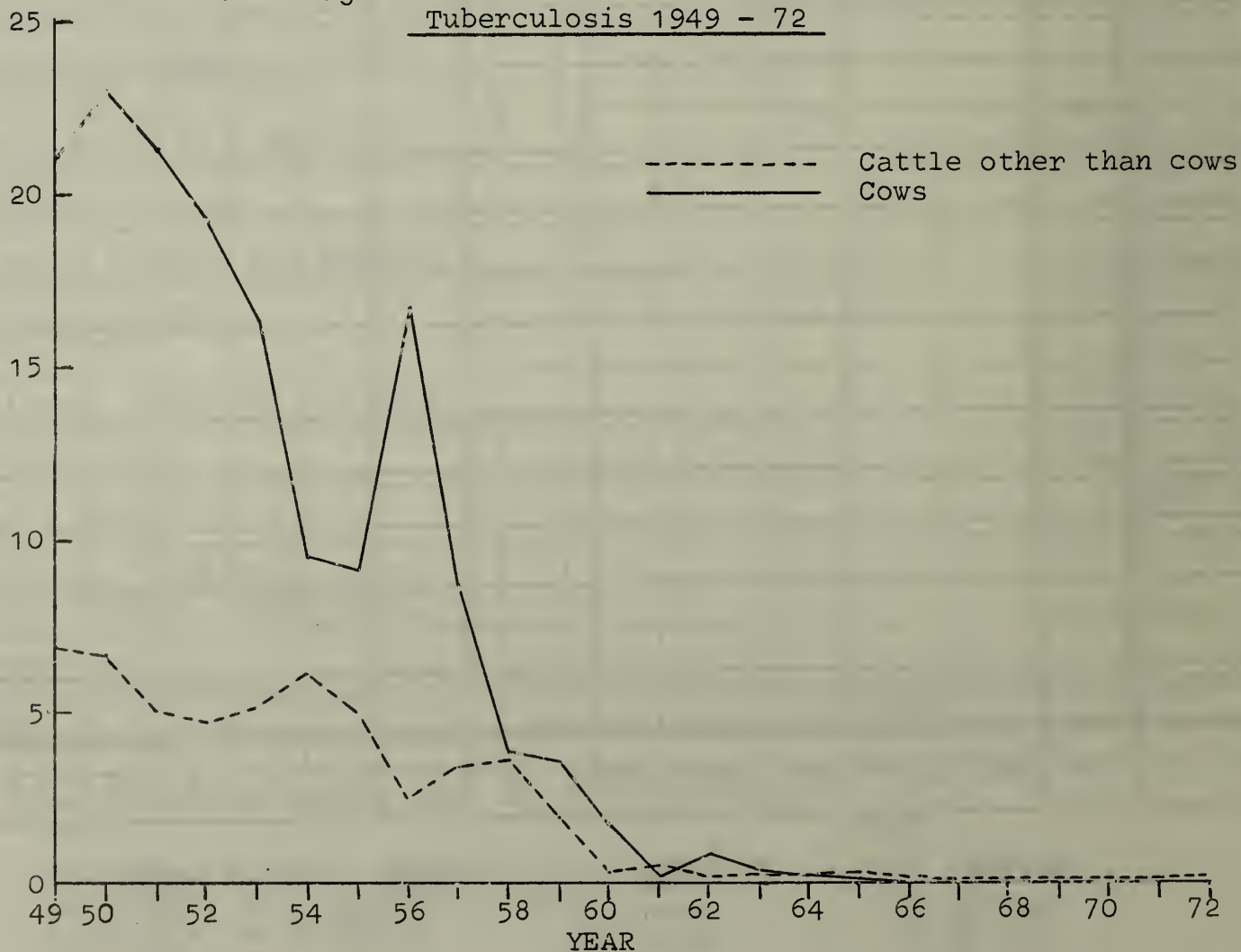
slaughterhouses was 117 tons. 7 cwts. 1 qrs. 10 lb.

Percentage of Cattle and Cows found affected with
Cysticercus bovis in 1968 to 1972

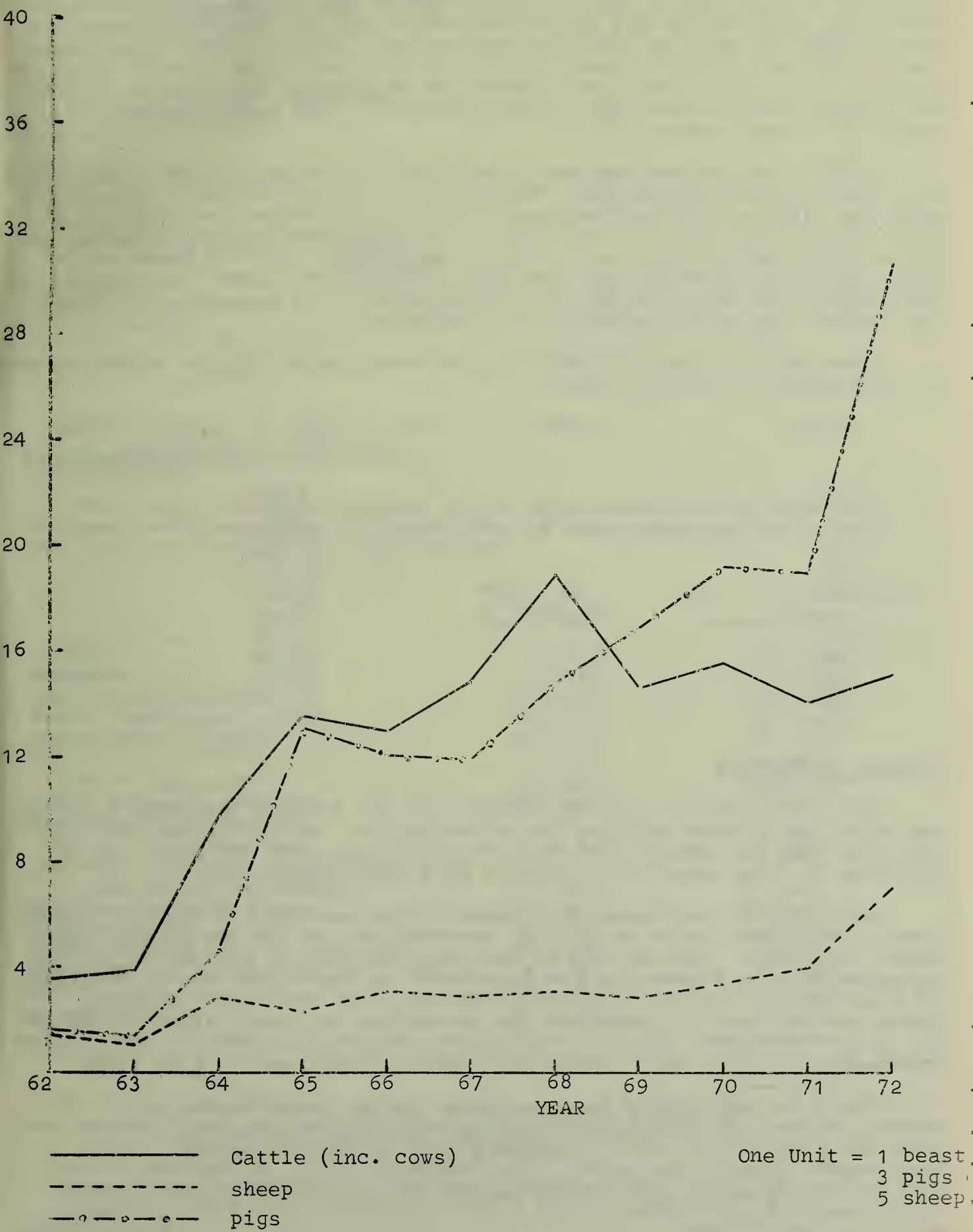
(Degenerate and viable cysts shown separately)



Percentage of Cattle and Cows found affected with
Tuberculosis 1949 - 72



Number of Animals in Cattle Units Slaughtered
Annually within the Borough, 1962-1972



at the larger of the two slaughterhouses was virtually completed in the early months of the year and this slaughterhouse killed regularly to fulfil orders for export to E.E.C. Countries. The now familiar pattern of meat inspection consuming more man-hours than any other duty is without doubt here to stay. To achieve a satisfactorily high standard of meat inspection it is necessary to adequately staff the slaughterhouse and, in so doing, the cost of meat inspection will often exceed the income. This situation exists in this Borough and I sincerely hope that the maximum charges for meat inspection will be increased before long. I feel this is particularly important because local authorities with this type of kill could be tempted to restrict their meat inspection efforts to match their income and this, in my opinion, will almost certainly lead to an inadequate standard of meat inspection.

During routine post-mortem inspections at slaughterhouses 5 (2) beasts were found to be infected with Tuberculosis as were 852 (457) pigs but in only one case was it found necessary to totally condemn the animal. 28 (81) animals were found to be infested with C. bovis but after incubation of the cysts only 6 (16) were found to be viable. Five of these bodies were treated by refrigeration and then released for human consumption. The infestation was found in the remaining beast to be generalised and the carcase and offals were totally condemned.

Five Official Sanitary Certificates were issued for the export of over 30 tons of meat to Spain.

Total number of animals killed
for human consumption

1949	6,592
1950	12,301
1951	16,280
1964	37,922
1965	64,628
1966	65,409
1967	65,675
1968	78,085
1969	79,588
1970	89,382
1971	91,617
1972	141,121

POULTRY INSPECTION

The three poultry packing stations in the Borough continued in daily use with two of them carrying out evisceration. An approximate kill for the year came to almost seven million birds (chickens and hens) and in addition to this some 51,371 rabbits were also slaughtered.

Daily visits continued to be made to the packing stations to inspect those birds found to be in any way abnormal and put on one side by the firms' spotters. This method of control over poultry production is that recommended as a minimum by the Department of Health and Social Security. It would be far better, of course, for the local authority to employ these spotters and to undertake the inspection in a more standardised way but with the current lack of legislation requiring inspection and hygiene standards it is the best system that can be undertaken at this time.

The E.E.C. Directive requires that poultry intended for export to Member States should be killed in licenced premises and be inspected both ante and post mortem under the supervision of a Veterinarian. This requirement should take effect from February, 1973. By February 1976 all poultry killed in this country, whether for export or home consumption, should by the terms of the E.E.C. Directive also have to comply with this requirement.

The following is a summary of the causes for voluntary surrender by the packing stations of the 60,746 birds unfit for human consumption:-

	<u>BROILERS</u>	<u>HENS</u>
Dead, in crate and moribund	11866	3745
Abscesses	323	364
Emaciation	5770	11620
Tumours, including Marek's Disease	310	882
E. coli septicaemia	17174	-
Bruising	214	98
Septic peritonitis	77	1960
Perosis	17	-
Septic arthritis and synovitis	11	-
Ascites and leucosis	55	2376
Tuberculosis	-	2
Gangrene	6	443
Blackhead	34	-
Emphysema	142	1
Icterus	4	-
Septic pericarditis and septic pleurisy	23	2255
Pyrexia	20	2
Parasitic conditions	8	139
Miscellaneous	489	316
	<hr/> 36543 <hr/>	<hr/> 24203 <hr/>

FOOD PREMISES

The number of food premises in the area classified by type of business, and the number of inspections of these premises during the year, are recorded in the table below:-

	<u>*Total No. of Premises</u>	<u>No. of Inspections made</u>
Bakers	6 (4)	14 (21)
Butchers	19 (20)	56 (104)
General provisions	41 (43)	95 (161)
Fried fish shops	11 (10)	18 (40)
Restaurants, cafes.	20 (20)	98 (112)
Hotels	8 (8)	33 (41)
Licenced clubs	25 (25)	84 (156)
Other licenced premises	55 (56)	
Food manufacturers and wholesalers	7 (8)	15 (41)
Canteens (schools, factories and public buildings)	58 (58)	41 (97)
Dairies and milk shops	33 (35)	31 (53)
Greengrocers	7 (7)	24 (35)
Confectioners	28 (29)	35 (56)
Wet fish	6 (5)	7 (19)
±Stalls	33 (33)	114 (161)
Miscellaneous	21 (18)	43 (61)
		<hr/> 708 (1158) <hr/>

* These figures should be regarded as approximate because in many cases different businesses are conducted from the same premises.

± This figure does not include mobile food traders.

MARKET STALLS

Regular inspections were carried out of the market food stalls and mobile food traders in the town. In the main the standard of compliance with the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966 was not as high as in the previous year. In spite of frequent visits and warning letters to certain vendors it eventually became

necessary to institute proceedings in respect of nine contraventions of the legislation involving five food handlers on three stalls. Convictions were obtained in all cases and resulted in the imposition of fines totalling £69 and the payment of £21 towards the costs of the local authority. Towards the end of the year it had become necessary for the Council to resolve to take proceedings against another market food handler for smoking whilst handling open food in spite of the fact that this man has been convicted for similar offences on three previous occasions. The hearing had not taken place by the close of the year.

UNSAFE FOOD

Weekly visits by arrangement with some retail outlets and also with some wholesalers were conducted throughout the year for the purpose of examination of their food stocks and the condemnation of those found to be unfit for human consumption. Surrender certificates were issued for a great deal of canned and bottled foods, etc. which were unsatisfactory, mainly through transit damage.

The amount of meat and offals condemned at the slaughterhouse rose to an all time high of 117 tons as compared with almost 89 tons in 1971 and the poultry rose to 69 tons as compared with 63 tons in 1971. The rise in quantities is accounted for by the increased throughput at the slaughterhouses and the packing stations. A table of the foods found to be unfit for human consumption, or unsaleable, and diverted to other purposes or destroyed by the Department were as follows:-

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Condiments, tea and coffee	-	5	2	26
Sweets, jam, sugar	-	5	1	5
Flour, cereals, pastries	2	16	0	10
Scup	-	6	0	26
Ice cream and frozen foods	-	14	3	21
Cheese	-	2	3	2
Vegetables	1	11	2	7
Fruit (Fresh)	1	2	1	3
Tinned milk, fish, etc.	-	6	3	3
Tinned meat	1	0	2	8
Butter, margarine, cream, etc.	-	1	2	27
Fruit and miscellaneous	5	2	2	8
Poultry	-	-	1	5
	13	16	3	11
Meat and offals (at slaughterhouses)	117	7	1	10
Poultry (Packing stations)	69	15	1	12
Rabbits (88)	-	3	0	19
	201	2	2	24

Four thousand four hundred and ninety three (4623) voluntary surrender certificates for unsound food were issued.

HOUSING

OVERCROWDING

No serious cases of overcrowding were encountered during the year.

SLUM CLEARANCE AND IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The main emphasis of housing work in the Borough continued towards improvement of the older housing and thus modernisation work is found to be dovetailed to a large degree with the work of clearance and general repairs of the older houses.

Twenty houses were demolished (41) and eighteen (38) were closed. The ten houses were made fit following vacation in pursuance of Closing Orders; in all cases improvement grants were given to aid this work.

As predicted in the last report a scheme of repair and modernisation for the eight houses in Reeds Buildings, Northgate Street, were received and application was made to the Secretary of State for the Environment for a Revocation Order (to remove the Clearance Order) to be confirmed. This confirmation was subsequently received and work on the houses commenced.

The unhappy saga of Jacqueline Close continued and following the Clearance Area declared in 1971 no further action has been taken by the Council other than obtaining extensions of time in which to make further Orders. The delay in further action has been at the request of the Residents Association in order to give them an opportunity to prepare a scheme to re-develop the site.

The sharp increase in the price of houses, particularly perhaps in the more modern properties, resulted initially in the older premises being a more attractive purchase especially when the modernisation and repair of that property could attract generous grant aid. With this sales pressure on the older houses it was perhaps inevitable that their market value should increase beyond a reasonable level and by the end of the year we had reached a situation where even a modest 2-up 2-down terraced house was beyond the pockets of a large proportion of the population, particularly the young couples and retired persons for whom this type of property would be ideal. The older terraced houses - particularly when sold in blocks of two or more - were purchased by builders or property companies and following modernisation were sold again at a figure several thousand pounds more than that at which they were bought. Improvement grants were frequently sought and obtained to aid this work and it was this speculative modernisation work which led to the Council conducting a re-appraisal of its grant policies. Following a close examination of all the relevant facts and opinions the Council decided to adhere to the present policy of offering grant aid for house improvements and repairs wherever possible.'

A table of statistics relating to improvement grant work undertaken by the Department is shown below:-

Demolition and Repair

Number of houses demolished	20	(41)
Number of houses closed	18	(38)
Number of houses vacated following closure	33	(20)
Number of unfit properties made fit	13	(14)

Improvements

Standard Grants	19	(15)
Higher Standard Grants	1	(2)
Improvement Grants	53	(40)
Maximum Standard Grants Approved	£3,425	(£2,255)
Maximum Higher Standard Grants Approved	£320	(£666)
Improvement Grants - approved expenditure	£62,125	(£47,585)
Improvement Grants	£30,675	(£22,221)

Qualification Certificates

Number of Certificates in houses already improved	2	(3)
Number of Certificates following improvement	2	(4)
Number of provisional Certificates outstanding	1	(2)
Number Refused	-	(1)

A Modification Order was made in respect of The Borough of Bury St. Edmunds No. 15 (Ipswich Street) Clearance Order 1968 towards the end of the year and is now awaiting confirmation by the Secretary of State for the Environment. The Order covers 19 houses which it is intended will be repaired and modernised with the aid of grant.

REPAIRS

Following routine inspections and complaints 78 (129) houses were found to be defective and were repaired as a result of informal action. It was found necessary to obtain permission to serve Statutory Notices under Section 26 of the Public Health Act, 1961 in respect of defects at two premises within the Borough. Eventually, the service of only one notice was needed and some of the work included in the notice was carried out in default, and an account sent to the owner.

The following table shows details of works which have been completed informally, some of the items in conjunction with grants.

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Roofs repaired	34	82	42
Guttering and rainwater downpipes repaired or renewed	34	71	82
External walls repaired or repointed	77	129	105
Doors repaired or renewed	33	64	43
Chimneys, flues and fireplaces repaired	12	38	17
Floors repaired and renewed	38	74	62
Windows repaired or enlarged	78	157	134
Dampness remedied	61	87	77
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	105	208	137
Stairs and staircases repaired	5	24	14
Food stores provided	4	5	12
Internal water supplies repaired	-	8	2
Sinks provided or renewed	2	3	3
Water closets repaired	3	8	15
Drainage - repairs and improvements	34	27	14
External decoration	3	5	5
Yard pavements repaired	-	2	2
Dry rot remedied	-	4	6
Woodworm infestations treated	4	6	13
Damp proof courses provided	-	93	64
Means of space heating provided	12	36	39
Means of Escape in Case of Fire	-	-	3
Miscellaneous	14	66	90
	<u>553</u>	<u>1197</u>	<u>981</u>

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Officially there are only about 15 of these houses known to the Department which indicates that there is little or no problem from houses in multiple occupation at this time.

MEANS OF ESCAPE FROM FIRE

Forty one (26) visits were made during the year to hotels and buildings let in flats, etc., to inspect the arrangements for means of escape in case of fire. When necessary the Fire Prevention Officer was asked to accompany the Inspector to advise him on technical details. Several premises were found to be unsatisfactory and remedial works were completed or were in the course of being so by the end of the year.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

During the year 47 registrations were received, some of which were new premises whilst others were occasioned by the change of occupiers. Thirty eight premises however, were removed from the register and at the end of the year 439 remained in which 3668 persons were employed (1607 males, 2061 females). 609 (740) visits were made to premises and of these 210 were general inspections. The following table shows details of contraventions remedied during the course of the year.

Cleanliness	61	(40)
Temperature	5	(3)
Provision of thermometers	19	(32)
Ventilation	20	(29)
Lighting	17	(21)
Washing facilities	10	(12)
Soap and towels	8	(15)

Sanitary Conveniences

a) provision of	1	(-)
b) defects general	10	(21)
c) marked for sexes	4	(2)
d) incinerators	1	(-)
e) decoration	3	(9)
f) cleanliness	11	(34)

Clothing Accommodation

a) hanging	2	(2)
b) drying	3	(3)
Seating facilities	-	(4)
Eating facilities	1	(1)
Floor passages and stairs	46	(84)
Obstructions	2	(1)
First aid	15	(21)
Abstract of Act	10	(20)
Ceilings and walls repaired	17	(24)
Regulations displayed	-	(-)
Overcrowding	-	(1)
Drinking water and vessels	1	(-)
Guarding of machinery	-	(2)
General defects	8	(21)
General decoration	17	(28)
Lifts and hoists	2	(-)
Lifting of heavy weights	-	(-)

The number of accidents reported during the year was only eight against 13 the previous year. The circumstances leading up to these accidents were investigated and where appropriate, advice was given to the employers and staff. I am pleased to report that none of these accidents were of a very serious nature.

The difficulties encountered in previous years in the administration of the Lifts and Hoists Regulations, 1958 were to some extent alleviated during the year when as a trial the local brewery successfully caged a platform type of hoist used to carry beer crates, etc. from cellar to bar in an hotel in the Borough. This followed notification that the appeal by Brewers against the caging of certain lifts and hoists had been refused. Plans were being made at the end of the year to similarly guard lifts and hoists in other licenced premises.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on the Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	4	2	
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	181	100	14	
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	143	3	-	
TOTAL	326	107	16	

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were institute
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector Referred	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	8	4			
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	1	1			
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
a) insufficient					
b) unsuitable or defective	32	31			
c) not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)					
TOTAL	41	36			

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Section 110				Section 111		
Nature of work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No of cases in default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
earing apparel making, etc.	1					
Network making	15					
Decoration making	35					
TOTAL	51					

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1950

At each market throughout the year a member of the Department was present to issue licences for the movement of pigs under the Movement of Swine Order, 1959. During the year 3288 (3450) movement licences were issued.

Sporadic outbreaks of fowl pest were reported up and down the country throughout the year and with the agreement of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food the live poultry market was licenced to sell store poultry from the 1st January until the 30th September. For the remaining three months of the year a licence was issued to cover the sale of poultry for immediate slaughter and in carcase form. It is expected that this pattern will be followed in future until instructions to the contrary are received or until further outbreaks of infectious disease occur locally.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During the year the number of premises found to be infested with rats rose slightly over the previous year's figure for the first time since 1968. 339 reports of rodents were received by the Department and were investigated, treatments being carried out as necessary. The number of premises infested with mice fell slightly for the second year running which points to the efficacy of treatments with acute poisons in preference to the use of Warfarin.

The numbers of infestations of rodents over the past several years can be seen from the following table:-

YEAR	Number of infested properties treated	
	RATS	MICE
1966	389	96
1967	411	72
1968	420	39
1969	400	111
1970	383	221
1971	325	218
1972	389	171

A rubbish-strewn piece of land in the town was considered likely to provide harbourage and succour for rodents, but the owner failed to improve conditions in spite of courteous informal requests to do so. The Council was left with little alternative but to serve Notice under Section 4 of the Act to compel the owner to carry out those works required by the Council to remove any risk of serious rodent infestation on the land.

There was a considerable drop in the incidence of wasps' nests and 93 (247) were destroyed. Other treatments for various insect infestations amounted to 117 (281) of which the majority, 85 (261), were infested with earwigs. Other insects involved mainly fleas and bed bugs.

The severe infestation of flies in properties in one concentrated area of the town mentioned in last years Annual Report recurred as expected during the Spring. This year the suspected source of the infestation was quickly identified and stringent measures to overcome the problem had almost immediate effects and no further complaints of flies in that neighbourhood were reported throughout the rest of the Summer.

NOISE ABATEMENT

During the year some 21 (32) complaints were received of alleged noise nuisances involving 16 separate cases. After thorough investigations only 2 of these complaints were in fact confirmed as Statutory Nuisances. In both cases the nuisances were abated by informal action following discussions with the firms concerned.

Five (3) complaints concerned traffic noise which is outside the scope of the Noise Abatement Act, 1961. With the growing volumes of noisy traffic and the justifiably increasing intolerance of the public towards this problem, the introduction of legislation to control and eventually reduce noise from vehicles is surely now overdue.

PETROLEUM

Each year the Department is responsible for licensing all existing and new petroleum spirit stores and tanks, and also those for cellulose and carbide of calcium. Installations of new petroleum tanks and the repair or alteration of existing works are supervised to ensure compliance with the Council's Licensing Conditions.

There are now 77 petroleum installations in the town together with 14 cellulose and petroleum mixtures stores and 2 carbide of calcium stores. A total of 234,385 gallons of petroleum spirit, 3640 gallons of cellulose and petroleum mixtures and 10 cwts. of carbide of calcium is licensed to be stored in the Borough.

Periodically, the petroleum tanks are tested under supervision by the Inspectors, 34 visits being made to petroleum installations for this purpose in 1972.

When a petroleum tank is empty and disused it is common practice to render it temporarily safe from explosion and/or fire by filling it with water. Sometimes the temporary period extends into months or even years and it was decided during the year under review to trace as many of these tanks as possible and encourage the owners to make more permanent provision for their safety. This can be achieved by either removing the tank after degassing, or by filling the tank with cement slurry and removing the vent pipes and pumps. Several tanks were treated in this manner during the year including some that were unknown to the Department until they were discovered during excavation work.

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875

Premises which store explosives are subject to an annual registration and this work is undertaken by the Department. Twenty five premises were registered during 1972, 2 of which stored mixed explosives 2 stored cartridges, 1 explosive rope, and the remainder fireworks.

As usual inspections were carried out of the shops which sought licenses to store fireworks. These inspections, 35, took place shortly before Guy Fawkes night. Safety standards in shops have improved considerably in the last few years probably due to the amount of publicity regarding the dangers of fireworks.

SHOPS ACT 1950

In accordance with the usual practice an extension of shopping hours was permitted during the week immediately preceeding Christmas.

An extension of the normally permitted hours was also granted in respect of an Exhibition held in the Athenaeum during the Summer.

Several contentious points were dealt with following appeals for advice from shops or other employers. The main points concerned the half-day closing in weeks prior to and after Bank Holiday week-ends. Advice was given on several occasions regarding the permitted working hours for young persons under 18 years of age.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956 - 1968

In general atmospheric pollution is one of the smallest worries of the Department. Smoke observations are carried out periodically on factory chimneys and two (9) applications were made for the determination of chimney heights. In one case the height was only approved after negotiations with the firm concerned. Six (10) applications for approval of a furnace installation were received and approved.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

During the year five sites were legally occupied by caravans. One permanent residential site involved thirty four caravans and conditions here remained at a satisfactorily high level. Four sites were used for winter quarters by members of the Showmens Guild. For the first three months of the year the main site was behind The Broadway, Eastgate Street, which piece of land was used during the Summer for an extension to the Ram Meadow car park. In the Autumn a parcel of land at the foot of Rougham Hill was occupied but planning permission was refused on the direction of the Regional Controller (Roads and Transportation) of the Department of the Environment. These caravans, about fifteen in all, were still on the site at the end of the year and one wonders where they can move to.

A plot of land also at the foot of Rougham Hill is fancied by the County Council as a permanent site for gypsy caravaners but this idea does not appeal to the Borough Council. The objection has been recorded and the matter referred to the Department of the Environment.

Several areas in the town were used during the year by gypsies and other caravan dwellers for varying periods of time. Their departure in most cases had to be arranged but their presence would have been more acceptable and tolerable had their community behaviour fallen more in line with that expected in this day and age.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Department is responsible for administration of a dustbin hiring scheme under the Public Health Act, 1936. These dustbins are available for hiring to domestic premises only and during the year the number of dustbins on hire was 1422 (1435). The charge was 36p. per annum per bin.

During the year 1275 (1436) complaints and requests for the services of the Department were made.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supply

The water undertakers for the Borough are the West Suffolk Water Board. Supplies during the year have been satisfactory by way of quality and quantity.

The following is the report of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor:-

Swimming Pool

The use of the swimming pool has again shown a drop from previous years. Attendance figures are as follows:-

		<u>Season Tickets</u>		
	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>
*1972	4,570 (750)	28,170 (10,650)	--	---
1971	5,000	21,570	60	482
1970	7,602	29,475	53	300
1969	3,594	20,488	--	---

*Season tickets discontinued - pre-sold tickets in books shown in brackets.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Regular collections of domestic and trade refuse were carried out with disposal by means of controlled tipping at West Stow. Special collections of household items were made in compliance with the Civic Amenities Act, and such collections have almost doubled in 1972.

Sewage Disposal

The extensions to the sewage disposal works at Fornham Park and Pigeon Lane were completed and operational. The final effluent to the River Lark has maintained a high standard of purity.

R A I N F A L L

The rainfall recorded during 1972 was as follows:-

Month	Total for month (inches)	Maximum rainfall on any day during month
January	2.67	0.63
February	1.28	0.49
March	1.55	0.30
April	1.82	0.38
May	1.42	0.23
June	1.69	0.61
July	2.84	0.83
August	0.78	0.63
September	1.72	0.93
October	0.16	0.05
November	2.05	0.61
December	2.20	0.65
Total	<u>20.18</u>	

MILK

Number of milk samples taken in Bury St. Edmunds
by West Suffolk County Council Weights and Measures Department
from January to December 1972

QUALITY		BACTERIOLOGICAL		
Chemical		Phosphatase		Methylene Blue
Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed
31	-	85	-	82
				3

Date		Time		Place		Remarks	
1900	10/1	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/2	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/3	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/4	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/5	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/6	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/7	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/8	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/9	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/10	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/11	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/12	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/13	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/14	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/15	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/16	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/17	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/18	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/19	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/20	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/21	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/22	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/23	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/24	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/25	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/26	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/27	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/28	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/29	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/30	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul
1900	10/31	10:00	10:30	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul	St. Paul

